

OAPA Tracking #: OAPA-14-JUL-AFG-0050



USAID | AFGHANISTAN

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

TO: Gordon Weynand, BEO/OAPA *soon Weynand*

THROUGH: Andrei Barannik, REA/Asia & OAPA

THROUGH: Harry Bottenberg, MEO, USAID/Afghanistan *A. Barannik 06-30-2014*
Bottenberg 6/28/2014

FROM: Edward Bloom, COR SIKA West, USAID/Afghanistan *EB 6/30/2014*

RE: Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) [West] – Approval of streamlined Environmental Compliance Process under the Negative Determination with Conditions (NDC) Threshold Decision: review and approval of environmental review forms/environmental review reports (ERF/ERR) and environmental mitigation and monitoring plans (EMMP)

SIKA BEO/OAPA-approved 22 CFR 216 documentation

The \$460 million SIKA project is being implemented from December 7, 2011, to December 31, 2015 under the original IEE approved by the BEO/OAPA on April 13, 2012, tracking # OAPA-12-APR-AFG-0032, and amended on 12/9/2013 for an unfunded extension due to excusable delays.

BEO/OAPA in the above-referred IEE approved the following Threshold Decisions: Categorical Exclusion and Negative Determination with Conditions for small-scale infrastructure activities.

The NDC in the original IEE under Implementer Procedures stipulated: preparation of an Environmental data Form (EDF) [now referred to as Environmental Review Form and Review Report], including a site-specific EMMP which will be reviewed for approval by the MEO.

Experience with SIKA NDC compliance to-date

There are four components of SIKA: South, North, East and West, implemented by Chemonics (South) and DAI (North, East and West), respectively. SIKA implementers AECOM and DAI have approved Environmental Compliance Plans (ECPs) and EMMPs which provide guidance for preparation and implementation of site-specific environmental documentation.

A Delegation of Authority Memo for SIKA South, North and East was approved by the BEO on 2/14/2014 (OAPA-14-FEB-AFG-0024). It was decided that SIKA West needed more time for training to improve quality and to ensure that documentation is submitted on time, therefore, SIKA West was not included in the memo.

A training on the use of the ERF/ERR review process was given by the MEO on February 25, 2014, for SIKA West engineer staff.

Since February 25 training, SIKA West prepared and submitted to USAID COR and MEO ca. 35 Environmental Review Forms/Reports, of good quality. Since January 2014, all projects are using the Mission-wide standard ERF/ERR sub-activity approval format with appropriate reference made to mitigation measures stipulated in the Environmental Compliance Plan approved by the MEO on 4/29/2013.

Streamlined Environmental Compliance Process for NDC activities

As the number of sub-activity environmental approvals is expected to continue during the remaining 17 months of SIKA implementation (until December 31, 2015) thus putting extra review and approval work load on USAID COR and MEO, BEO/OAPA is requested to concur to the following:

1. DAI shall continue preparation of ERF/ERR and EMMP for relevant NDC activities
2. ERF/ERR and EMMP shall be approved by DAI and AECOM COP and ES
3. DAI shall continue submitting EDF/ERR and EMMP to USAID COR and MEO
4. USAID COR and MEO prior approval shall not be required for DAI to start implementation of relevant activity
5. USAID COR and MEO reserve the right to stop any activity if not satisfied with the quality of the submitted ERF/ERR and EMMP, and if the monitoring and supervision indicates in-adequate and/or unsatisfactory implementation of approved environmental mitigation and monitoring measure
6. DAI shall continue environmental reporting to USAID as stipulated in the SIKA IEE Amendment No 1, Sec. 2.0
7. All other environmental conditions approved by the BEO/OAPA in the original IEE and IEE Amendment No 1 remain in force through the established LOP duration and LOP funding level.

Cced: SIKA Project File, MEO Tracking, RLA, OAA

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